

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for use in cooperation with operation of an attached companion product vending device; said attached companion product vending device delivering at least one first product purchased by a user; said user initiating said purchase by conveying payment to said companion device and exercising an actuator; the apparatus comprising:

(a) a control means for controlling the apparatus in dispensing at least one coupon in response to said exercising; said at least one coupon being redeemable for value in connection with purchasing at least one second product;

(b) a providing means for effecting said dispensing; said providing means being coupled with said control means and responsive to said control means;

(c) a direct link between the apparatus and said actuator for effecting said cooperation;

(d) a communication means coupled with said control means for communicating operational information with the apparatus regarding operation of the apparatus; and

(e) a memory means coupled with said communication means for storing said operational information;

~~An apparatus for use in cooperation with operation of an attached companion product vending device as recited in Claim 3 wherein~~ said communication means ~~comprises~~ comprising a telephone connection with a remote controlling station

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Withdrawn)

10. (Withdrawn)

11. (Withdrawn)

12. (Withdrawn)

13. (Withdrawn)

14. (Withdrawn)

15. (Withdrawn)

16. (Withdrawn)

17. (Withdrawn)

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Cancelled)

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Cancelled)

24. (Cancelled)

25. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for use in cooperation with operation of a companion product vending device; said companion product vending device and the apparatus being assembled in a unitary configuration; said companion product vending device delivering at least one first product purchased by a user; said user initiating said purchase by conveying payment to said companion device and exercising an actuator; the apparatus comprising:

(a) a control means for controlling the apparatus in dispensing at least one coupon in response to said exercising; said coupon being redeemable for value in connection with purchasing at least one second product;

(b) a providing means coupled with said control means for effecting said dispensing;

(c) a direct link between the apparatus and said actuator for effecting said cooperation;

(d) a communication means coupled with said control means for communicating operational information with the apparatus from outside the apparatus regarding operation of the apparatus; and

(e) a memory means coupled with said communication means for storing said operational information; ~~An apparatus for use in cooperation with operation of a companion product vending device as recited in Claim 22 wherein~~ said communication means ~~comprises~~ comprising a satellite communication connection with a remote controlling station.

26. (Cancelled)

27. (Cancelled)

28. (Previously Amended) An apparatus for use in cooperation with a vending device; said vending device having an interior storage cavity for storing a plurality of units of a product and a door; said door being enabled for moving from a closed position to an open

position by a user conveying payment to said vending device; said cavity being accessible by said user when said door is in said open position; the apparatus comprising:

- (a) a control unit for controlling the apparatus in dispensing at least one coupon in response to said door moving from said closed position to said open position; said at least one coupon being redeemable for at least one product;
- (b) a providing means for effecting said dispensing; said providing means being coupled with said control means and responsive to said control means; and
- (c) a direct link between the apparatus and said door for effecting said cooperation.

29. (Previously Amended) An apparatus for use in cooperation with a vending device as recited in Claim 28 wherein the apparatus further comprises:

- (d) a communication means coupled with said control means for communicating operational information with the apparatus regarding operation of the apparatus; and
- (e) a memory means coupled with said communication means for storing said operational information.

30. (Previously Amended) An apparatus for use in cooperation with a vending device as recited in as recited in Claim 29 wherein said communication means comprises a telephone connection with a remote controlling station

31. (Previously Amended) An apparatus for use in cooperation with a vending device as recited in as recited in Claim 29 wherein said communication means comprises an access port for providing control access by an operator effecting a connection with the apparatus via said access port.

32. (Previously Amended) An apparatus for use in cooperation with a vending device as recited in as recited in Claim 29 wherein said communication means comprises a satellite communication connection with a remote controlling station.

33. (Cancelled)

34. (Cancelled)

35. (Previously Amended) An apparatus for use in cooperation with a vending device as recited in Claim 29 wherein said link is a mechanical link connecting said door with the apparatus.

36. (Previously Amended) An apparatus for use in cooperation with a vending device as recited in Claim 29 wherein said link is an electronic link connecting said door with the apparatus.